THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) The Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 1977 require declaration of retail sale price of a package in the form MRP.....(inclusive of all taxes), for information of consumer. Declaration of MRP on package has to be made by manufacture or packer of the commodity. The Rules have penal provision, which prevent the retail dealer from selling the package at a price higher than the declared MRP. The Government do not have information on the cost of production of commodities in such packages.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal under consideration to make it mandatory to get the MRP approved by an appropriate agency. Competitive market forces would discourage manufacturers/packers from declaring unreasonably high MRP.

Loan from SDF to sugar factories

1885. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government provides loan from the Sugar Development Fund to sugar factories for cane development;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of such proposals, duly recommended by State Governments, have been received since 2000, State-wise and still pending for consideration;

(d) the reasons for delay in disposing of these proposals; and

(e) by when loan from Sugar Development Fund for cane development is likely to be sanctioned to sugar factories in the country, with particular reference to Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Under Rule 17 of SDF Rules, 1983, loans are provided to a sugar undertaking for development of sugarcane in its area upto 90% of recommended project cost for the following purposes:

(i) Setting up of heat treatment plants;

(ii) Rearing of nurseries;

(iii) Pest control measures;

(iv) Incentive to cultivators to switch over the improved varieties of sugarcane;

(v) Irrigation schemes; and

(vi) Any other scheme or project as may be approved by the Central Government.

(c) The number of such proposals are as under:

Sl. No.	Name of the State	No. of cases
1.	Maharashtra	14
2.	Haryana	1
3.	Karnataka	1
4.	Andhra Pradesh	2
5.	Tamil Nadu	1
6.	Punjab	1

(d) Due to incomplete information given by the sugar units, disposal of their proposals gets delayed.

(e) Receipt of applications and sanction of loan is a continuous process. For the State of Maharashtra, in the cases where complete information was received, loan sanctioned during the past five years is as under:

Year	No. of cases sanctioned
2000	8
2001	8
2002	17
2003	9
2004	2